

OPPENHEIMER

OPPENHEIMER WOLFF & DONNELLY LLP

Plaza VII, Suite 3300
 45 South Seventh Street
 Minneapolis, MN 55402-1609

612.607.7000
 Fax 612.607.7100

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FAX COVER LETTER

December 15, 2005

TO: Examiner B. Van Doren
COMPANY: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office – Art Unit 3623
PHONE: 571.272.6737
FAX: 571.273.8300

FROM: David A. Prange
DIRECT DIAL: (612) 607-7263
EMAIL: DPrange@oppenheimer.com
RE: U.S. Patent Application No. 09/444,889
 Attorney Docket No.: 60021-336701

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and Fee Transmittal are being facsimile transmitted to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patent, on the date listed below.



Janet Byrne



Date

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Originals: Not being sent

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PTO/SB/30 (10-01)
Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0851-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL		Application Number	09/444,889
Address to: MS RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450		Filing date	November 22, 1999
		First Named Inventor	Michael G. Mikurak
		Art Unit	3623
		Examiner Name	B. Van Doren
		Attorney Docket Number	60021-336701

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114

a. Previously submitted

- i. Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR 1.116 previously filed on November 15, 2005. (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____.

b. Enclosed

- i. Amendment(s)/Reply
- ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. Other _____ and Returned Postcard.

2. Miscellaneous

a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103@ for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(l) required)

b. Other _____.

3. Fees

a. The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-1901.

i. RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e). 12/16/2005 HDEMESS1 00000028 501901 09444889

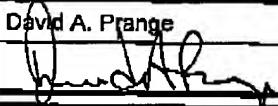
ii. Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17). 01 FC:1801 790.00 DA

iii. Other _____.

b. Check in the amount of \$_____ enclosed.

c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print/Type)	David A. Prange	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	56,872
Signature		Date:	December 15, 2005

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

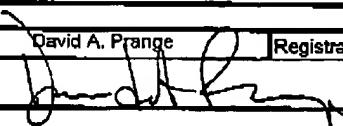
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)	Janet Byrne
Signature	
Date:	December 15, 2005

DEC 15 2005

FEE TRANSMITTAL		Complete if Known	
for FY 2005		Application Number	09/444,869
<i>Patent fees are subject to annual revision.</i>		Filing Date	November 22, 1999
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant Claims Small Entity		First Named Inventor	Michael G. Mikurak
TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT		Examiner Name	B. Van Doren
\$790.00		Group Art Unit	3623
		Attorney Docket No.:	60021-336701

METHOD OF PAYMENT				
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Authorized to charge indicated fees or credit				
<p>Deposit Acct No. 50-1901</p> <p>Name: Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly LLP</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge Any Add'l Fee Required Under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17</p>				
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Payment Enclosed: Check <input type="checkbox"/> Credit				
FEES CALCULATION				
1. BASIC FILING FEE				
Large Entity Fee	Small Entity Fee	Fee description	Fee Paid	
1000*	500*	Utility filing fee		
430*	215*	Design filing fee		
660*	330*	Plant filing fee		
1400*	700*	Reissue filing fee		
200	100	Provisional filing fee		
SUBTOTAL (1)			\$0.00	
2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES				
Claims - 20 =	Extra Claims 50/25	Fee	Fee Paid	
Ind. - 3 =	200/100			
Claims Multiple Dependent	360/180			
Large Entity Fee	Small Entity Fee	Fee Description		
50	25	Claims in excess of 20		
200	100	Independent claims in excess of 3		
360	180	Multiple dependent claim		
200	100	" Reissue independent claims over original patent		
50	25	" Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent		
SUBTOTAL (2)			\$0.00	
3. Application Size Fee (Utility)				
If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application fee due is \$250 (\$125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(e)				
SUBTOTAL (3)			\$0.00	
FEES CALCULATION (continued)				
4. ADDITIONAL FEES				
Fee Code	Large Entity Fee (\$)	Small Entity Fee (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
1051	130	2051	65 Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
1052	50	2052	25 Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
1053	130	1053	130 Non-English specification	
1812	2,520	1812	2,520 Filing a request for ex parte reexamination	
1804	920*	1804	920* Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
1805	1,840*	1805	1840* Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
1251	120	2251	60 Extension for reply within first month	
1252	450	2252	225 Extension for reply within second month	
1253	1020	2253	510 Extension for reply within third month	
1254	1,590	2254	795 Extension for reply within fourth month	
1255	2,160	2255	1,080 Extension for reply within fifth month	
1401	500	2401	250 Notice of Appeal	
1402	500	2402	250 Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
1403	1,000	2403	500 Request for oral hearing	
1451	1,510	1451	1,510 Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
1452	500	2452	250 Petition to revive - unavoidable	
1453	1,500	2453	750 Petition to revive - unintentional	
1501	1,400	2501	700 Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
1502	800	2502	400 Design issue fee	
1503	1,100	2503	550 Plant issue fee	
1460	130	1460	130 Petitions to the Commissioner	
1807	130	1807	130 Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q)	
1808	180	1808	180 Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
8021	40	8021	40 Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
1809	790	2809	395 Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a))	
1810	790	2810	395 For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))	
1801	790	2801	395 Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Request for expedited examination of a design application	\$790.00
1802	900	1802	900 Other fee (specify)	
SUBTOTAL (4)			\$790.00	

SUBMITTED BY		Complete if applicable	
Name	David A. Prange	Registration No.:	56,872
Signature		Telephone:	612-607-7263
		Date:	December 15, 2005

*Includes: Filing fee + Examination fee + Search fee